

The below references are listed for consideration in the examination of the subject application.

U.S. PATENTS:

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Patentee(s)</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Examiner Initials</u>
5,654,084	EGERT	August 5, 1997	<i>msgo 2/14/06</i>

Explanation of U.S. Patent No. 5,654,084

maribel santia 2/14/06

U.S. Patent No. 5,654,084 ("Egert") discloses a coating to prevent interaction between a device and the environment. The Abstract states: "An enhanced protective coating to prevent interaction between constituents of the environment and devices that can be damaged by those constituents. This coating is provided by applying a synergistic combination of diffusion barrier and physical barrier materials. These materials can be, for example, in the form of a plurality of layers of a diffusion barrier and a physical barrier, with these barrier layers being alternated." At col. 4 ll. 37-44, the specification mentions, without any supporting information or examples, that the layer can be a "continuum coating" rather than comprising distinct layers.

Figures 3 and 4, discussed at col. 4 line 45 through col. 5 line 13, depict the effectiveness of the Egert coating. While the Figures do not specifically show an H₂O permeability value in the units of g/m²-day, there is sufficient information in the Figures to derive an H₂O permeability value in those units. The derivation follows.

Egert used the example of applying a protective coating to prevent LiH from reacting with/absorbing water. When LiH reacts with/absorbs water, its weight will increase. By measuring this weight gain, the permeability value of the protective coating can be extracted. The weight gain of LiH can be calculated using the equation: